

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Paschini, Miles, et al. Confirmation No.: 8429
Serial No.: 10/821,405 Group Art Unit: 3621
Filed: April 9, 2004 Examiner: Jacob C. Coppola
FOR: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION
NUMBERS OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK**

Mail Stop Petitions

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(3)

This is a petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of a prior filed U.S. application.

(i) The present application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/316,603, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK, filed December 10, 2002, which is a continuation of U. S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/619,392, filed July 19, 2000, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. This application is also related to co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/821,815, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK, filed herewith, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

(ii) The entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 C.F.R. §1.178, i.e., August 9, 2004 and the date of this petition was unintentional. As evidence of the unintentional failure to make a proper claim to priority, Applicants respectfully note that the present application, i.e., U.S. Application No. 10/821,405, contains a specific reference to U.S. Application 10/316,603 in the specification as filed (Ex. A):

This application is related and claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/316,603, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK (filed December 10, 2002), which is hereby incorporated in its entirety. This application is also related to co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No., _____ entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK (filed herewith) which is hereby incorporated in its entirety.

Applicants unintentionally omitted an indication of the priority claim to the application, as required under 37 CFR §1.178.

Applicants authorize the surcharge fee of \$1,410.00 set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (t) which may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

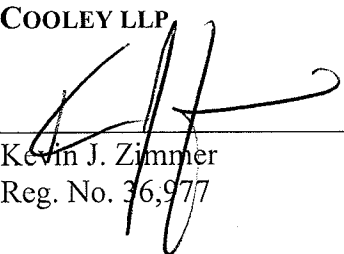
Dated: May 24, 2010

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EXHIBIT A

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK

5 CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is related and claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/316,603, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK (filed December 10, 2002), which is hereby incorporated in its entirety. This application is also related to co-pending
10 U.S. Patent Application Serial No., _____ entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK (filed herewith) which is hereby incorporated in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention generally relates to a system and method for allowing customers and businesses to purchase pre-paid goods and services. The present invention more specifically relates to a system and method for distributing personal identification numbers (PINs) for access to pre-paid goods and services to users over a computer network.

20 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

There currently exist "pre-paid" telephone cards that allow a customer to purchase a desired amount of long-distance telephone time from a particular telephone service provider. These pre-paid telephone cards are often sold by dealers such as convenience stores or wireless
25 phone stores. Pre-paid telephone cards are also often sold in airports. Vending machines for selling pre-paid telephone cards also have been developed. Each of these pre-paid telephone cards has a specific monetary denomination. For example, a customer could purchase a \$10 card, a \$20 card, or a \$100 card. These pre-paid telephone cards are sold by particular telephone service providers such as AT&T, MCI, Sprint, etc. A customer could, for example, buy a \$20
30 MCI card, which would entitle him or her to \$20 worth of long-distance calling service provided by MCI. These cards are referred to as "pre-paid" because the customer purchases the long-distance time before he or she actually places the call. This is in contrast to the more typical post-pay service that most telephone customers use with the telephone in their residence or